

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAMILT 00407 312306Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /071 W  
-----054836 312316Z /14

P 311716Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2913  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 407  
E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BD  
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH OPPOSITION LEADER

REF: A) HAMILTON 404; B) HAMILTON 403  
1. SUMMARY: IN A 45-MINUTE DISCUSSION IN MY OFFICE ON  
AUGUST 28, OPPOSITION LEADER LOIS BROWNE-EVANS REVIEWED  
WITH ME ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND DURING MY TWO-MONTH ABSENCE;  
THE PITT COMMISSION REPORT, THE CONVENING OF A LOCAL CONSTI-  
TUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE  
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY'S (PLP) CURRENT STANCE ON THE  
INDEPENDENCE ISSUE. MRS. BROWNE-EVANS WAS QUITE FORTHCOMING  
AND EBULLIENT IN HER DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS, REFLECTING  
THE ENTHUSIASM OF AN OPPOSITION LEADER WHOSE PARTY HAD BENEFIT-  
TED POLITICALLY FROM BOTH THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE  
PITT REPORT AND THE BACKLASH OF WHAT SHE CONSIDERED TO BE SOME  
INEPT DECISIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED BERMUDA PARTY  
DURING THE SUMMER. END SUMMARY.

2. PITT COMMISSION REPORT: IN DISCUSSING THE PITT REPORT IN  
GENERAL, MRS. BROWNE-EVANS ENGAGED IN PARTY RHETORIC IN  
CLAIMING THAT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT  
SURPRISING THAT THEY REPRESENTED A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE  
CAUSES OF UNDERLYING TENSIONS ON THE ISLAND AND, THEREFORE,  
PRESENTED A CLEAR MANDATE FOR THE UNITED BERMUDA PARTY (UBP)  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAMILT 00407 312306Z

TO TAKE EARLY AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIAL ACTION. SHE SAID THE  
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS FOR THE PREMIER TO CONVENE A CON-  
STITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR SOLELY TO  
ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS OF ELECTORAL REFORM. CONTRARY TO  
THE OPINION CONVEYED TO ME BY THE PREMIER (REF A), SHE  
CLAIMS THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE STRICTLY A BERMUDA  
FUNCTION TO BE CONVENED BY THE PREMIER (NOT THE GOVERNOR),



WITH ONLY MEMBERS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATING. SHE SAID THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE SHOULD REPRESENT THE PROPORTIONATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

3. ELECTORAL REFORM: MRS. BROWNE-EVANS STATED THAT THE PITT REPORT LAID OUT THE AGENDA FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. THE PLP WILL PUSH FOR REFORM IN ALL FOUR AREAS DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT, I.E., REDISTRICTING OF BOUNDARIES ON A HEAD-COUNT BASIS, ABOLITION OF DUAL-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES WHICH SHE CLAIMS PERMITS A WHITE CANDIDATE TO PIGGY-BACK TO VICTORY ON THE STRENGTH OF A BLACK RUNNING MATE, LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18 AND ABOLITION OF THE EXPATRIATE VOTE. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HER EXPECTATIONS REGARDING AGREEMENT ON ANY OR ALL OF THESE POINTS WITH THE UBP, SHE STATED REALISTICALLY THAT ENOUGH PRESSURES MIGHT BE BROUGHT ON UBP LEADERSHIP TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE AND AN EXTENSION OF THE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR THE EXPATRIATE VOTE BUT THAT SHE DID NOT THINK THE UBP WOULD AGREE TO REDISTRICTING OR SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES UNLESS INTENSE PUBLIC PRESSURES WERE BROUGHT TO BEAR. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION WHETHER HER PARTY WOULD ACCEPT A PARTIAL REFORM PACKAGE THAT PRODUCED AGREEMENT ON SOME BUT NOT ALL FOUR POINTS, SHE EVENTUALLY CONCEDED THAT IT MIGHT, BUT QUOTE UNDER PROTEST UNQUOTE.

4. INDEPENDENCE: IN DISCUSSING THE PUBLISHED RESULTS OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAMILT 00407 312306Z

THE UBP CANVASS WHICH SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY OPPOSED TO EARLY INDEPENDENCE, MRS. BROWNE-EVANS CLAIMED THAT THE SURVEY WAS PARTISAN AND THAT ITS CREDIBILITY HAD EVEN BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE UBP'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT BERMUDA SHOULD TAKE ITS LEAD FROM THE LANGUAGE OF THE PITT REPORT AND THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT HER PARTY'S PRINCIPLE PLATFORM ISSUE IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE FOR IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE.

5. COMMENTS: DURING OUR DISCUSSION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT MRS. BROWNE-EVANS HAS BEEN INFUSED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND OPTIMISM BY EVENTS OF THE SUMMER. SHE APPEARED MORE CONFIDENT IN MANNER AND MORE ARTICULATE IN EXPRESSING HER PARTY'S IMMEDIATE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND DEMANDS. HER SCENARIO FOR THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE AND THE PLAYERS WHO WILL ASSUME THE MAJOR ROLES OUTLINES HER TACTICS. SHE IS PUTTING THE ONUS OF IMPLEMENTING THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION SQUARELY ON THE UBP AND PREFERS NOT TO HAVE IT DILUTED BY THE GOVERNOR OR THE U.K. GETTING INTO THE ACT THEREBY SERVING AS EVENTUAL SCAPE-GOATS SHOULD THE CONFERENCE NOT BE HELD. ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER SHE HAS DONE HER PARLIAMENTARY HOMEWORK IN ASSUMING THIS POSITION.



6. IN THE PITT REPORT, THE PLP HAS FOUND ITS KORAN AND IN THE PERSON OF THE DYNAMIC OPPOSITION LEADER, ITS MOHAMMAD. SHE HAS ALREADY BEGUN HER PROSELYTIZING HERE AND HER MESSAGE IS BECOMING CLEAR. IN A PLP PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON AUG 24, SHE HERALDED THE PITT REPORT AS QUOTE THE LAST PEACEFUL CHANCE FOR CHANGE IN BERMUDA UNQUOTE. SHE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE REPORT'S CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO ABOLISH THE EXPATRIATE VOTE AND DUAL SEAT CONSTITUENCIES. SHE EXHORTED HER AUDIENCE TO QUOTE COMPEL THIS COUNTRY TO HOLD THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BY DECEMBER 1978 UNQUOTE. HER PARTY IS SCHEDULING SIMILAR PUBLIC MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAMILT 00407 312306Z

RAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HAMILT00407  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780356-0793  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** HAMILTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978084/aaaaadjm.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 9007dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 HAMILTON 404, 78 HAMILTON 403  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1669705  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH OPPOSITION LEADER  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, BD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9007dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014